

THE
Fiftieth



GULL
Anniversary

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Number 6

OUR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY BANQUET—THURSDAY, JUNE 8

JUNE 8 IS THE GOLDEN DAY—The Golden Anniversary of Golden Gate Audubon Society.

Whether you are an old member or a new member—we hope you are planning to join us in celebrating this important milestone!

At our gala Banquet in the Kaiser Center Dining Room, 300 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, we'll have a special "old-timers' table" honoring those who have long been members of our Society. After dinner our Master of Ceremonies, Dr. T. Eric Reynolds, will highlight our history and introduce significant present-day projects, including Audubon Canyon Ranch and Phyllis Lindley's Audubon Nature Training classes at Aquatic Park. William N. Goodall, Western Representative of National Audubon Society, will bring greetings from the region, and Charles H. Callison, Executive Vice President of National Audubon, will be the featured speaker.

A display table will have snapshots of past Golden Gate Audubon activities. If you have such pictures, please bring them with you or phone Mrs. Phyllis Zweigart, 526-7295 (7 p.m.- 9 p.m.).

The Kaiser Center Dining Room is located on the shore of Lake Merritt—an appropriate background for this historic occasion. The first official bird sanctuary in the United States was established at Lake Merritt on March 18, 1870 by the California State Legislature. Furthermore, in Volume I, Number 1, of **The Gull** (January 1919) the first field trip listed was to Lake Merritt on Sunday, January 12, 1919, beginning at 9:45 a.m. and "Those desiring to picnic and spend the afternoon in Trestle Glen, about ½ mile from Lake Merritt, will bring lunch and it would be advisable to carry canteens."

As announced in the April and May **Gulls**, the Golden Anniversary celebration will begin with a **champagne punch** social hour at **6 p.m.** Dinner will be served at **6:45 p.m.** Reservations will be accepted up to the **Friday, June 2 deadline.** Please send your check for \$5 per person to Mrs. Kathleen Horr, 3326 Beechwood Drive, Lafayette, Calif. 94549, and include your address and telephone number. Checks should be made payable to the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Tickets will not be sent; your check is your receipt. Tables may be reserved for groups of 10 persons.—MRS. PAT BOESE, *Chairman.*

Editor's Note: We appreciate the following tribute in the May issue of **The Observer**, official publication of the Sacramento Audubon Society:

"The Golden Gate Audubon Society will celebrate its GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY at a dinner on Thursday, June 8, at the Kaiser Center in Oakland. This is a notable milestone in the achievements of a volunteer organization, and its significance reflects credit and prestige on all neighboring Audubon Branches. All Sacramento members are most welcome to join in the grand celebration."

FIELD TRIPS FOR JUNE-JULY 1

Saturday-Sunday, June 3-4, Yosemite National Park. For details see your May **Gull**.

Saturday, June 17, Strawberry Canyon, Berkeley. This is a good trip for beginners. Meet at 9 a.m. at the entrance to the U.C. Botanical Garden. The habitat—some man-made and some natural—attracts a large variety of birds. Leaders:....Mrs. Pat Boese, 522-2487, and Mrs. Trix Machlis, 525-8473.

Note: The bank swallow trip will not be scheduled this year. If you would like to see the nesting bank swallows, walk along the beach near San Francisco's Fleishhacker Zoo in early June.

Saturday, July 1, South Peninsula Coast. Murrelets, murre, guillemots, purple martins, grasshopper sparrows, and black swifts could be seen by covering a variety of habitats. Meet at the Municipal Pier parking lot at Princeton on Half Moon Bay at 9 a.m. Leader, Ted Chandik, 327-4575 (Palo Alto).

Bring lunch, binoculars, field guides, and interested friends on all field trips.—MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

NATIONAL AUDUBON CENTER TO CLOSE JUNE 9

We regret that the unique and influential Conservation Resource Center in Berkeley will close permanently on June 9.

Under the expert management of Mary Jefferds, this National Audubon Center has sparked many successful conservation campaigns in the Bay Area. The Nature Training Program in Aquatic Park was established because teachers and youth group leaders have been purchasing nature education materials from the Audubon Center and needed advice on using them. The Center has been an effective clearing house on conservation and nature education. Many customers who would enter the store just to buy a book would also pick up Audubon conservation literature. Among the Audubon store's customers have been Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul and the late Admiral Chester Nimitz. The Center has prepared exhibits of Audubon materials for conventions, schools, recreational organizations and for two Consumer CO-OPS, thus providing exposure to thousands of people. Resource materials and ideas have been provided for television and radio programs. Stimulus and practical help in suggesting programs and areas of service have been given to Active Conservation Tactics, a new organization of University of California students. The Center has been a true resource in every sense of the word and we'll all miss it!

Following is the complete notice about the closing: (It arrived too late for publication in the May **Gull**)

"Memo to Presidents and Editors, Audubon Branches and affiliates in the West—From William N. Goodall, Western Representative:

"After fifteen years the Conservation Resource Center in Berkeley will close out all stock and services effective June 9th, 1967. All requests for merchandise following this date will be returned to the sender and requests for information will be referred to other Audubon representatives.

"The National Audubon Society will now concentrate exclusively on aspects of the Audubon conservation education programs already initiated in the Bay Area, and further announcements on this development will be made at a later date."

"All Audubon members and friends are invited to take advantage of this notice to make purchases of the nature books and gift items similar to those displayed at the National Audubon Convention held in Sacramento."

After receiving the above memo, we wrote to Charles H. Callison, Executive Vice President, expressing our surprise and regret at the closing of the Conservation Resource Center. Mr. Callison replied that National Audubon does not intend to neglect the branches and the total Audubon program in the Bay Area. Negotiations are under way with an organization which may take over the book store, and which may offer a partial solution to some of the problems created by the closing of the Center in Berkeley. We hope that a future issue of **The Gull** will have definite information on how the services will be handled elsewhere.

The **Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide**, dated May 1, arrived just in time for our June **Gull** deadline and we quote the following announcement:

"Miss Mary Jefferds, long in charge of the Audubon Resources Center at Berkeley, Calif., will undertake a new educational assignment for the Society, putting into effect a program she helped develop more than three years ago. Her job will be development of nature training programs, or "Ecology Workshops" for teachers and youth leaders, and will entail working with Audubon branches, garden clubs, school authorities, and others. At first she will be concerned primarily with the San Francisco Bay Area.

"It was Miss Jefferds who first conceived the Berkeley Aquatic Park project, which she initiated along with Miss Lindley, and which was the pilot project for the new program."

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

The 10th Biennial Wilderness Conference held early in April at the San Francisco Hilton brought together hundreds of wilderness-lovers from coast to coast. Your Conservation Chairman regrets that he could not attend panels listed as: The Contribution of Wilderness to American Life, Forgotten Wilderness, and The Quality of American Wilderness, but simply reading those titles is stimulating. Discussion of a proposed new **Federal Dept. of Natural Resources** by Senator Frank Moss of Utah was probably the most controversial issue raised at the Conference—outside of the red-hot National Redwood Park controversy.

We did hear both Lt. Governor Robert Finch and Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, who shared the keynote speeches of the Friday banquet. Mr. Finch pinpointed and discussed intimately many California problems: preservation of San Francisco Bay natural values, the despoilation of Lake Tahoe, the spread of "slurbs" on the state's open lands . . all problems which he believed would require state action.

Secretary Freeman spoke from a background of wilderness-packing and canoe trips . . and of California problems from his experiences "commuting" between Oakland Naval Hospital and Yosemite and other mountain areas during a post-war convalescence. He had inspected personally the proposed North Cascades National Park and Wilderness Area and spoke enthusiastically of them, but also told of the key position of Kennicott Copper, which controls mineral rights in the midst of the region and has been asked to surrender them.

For major goals the Secretary spelled out: sell Americans rank and file on Conservation, even the need to sacrifice some luxuries to achieve preservation of some resources; plan and enforce better land use, including the preservation of farm lands from spreading "slurbs"; reduce and control the use of harmful pesticides and other chemicals on farm lands and public waters. Americans must learn wisdom to accompany the growth of technology and power, he warned the audience.

We left the Conference much encouraged to know that California and the nation had two such conservation-minded leaders as Finch and Freeman in positions of power and influence. Presentation of the John Muir Award to wilderness student and writer, Sigurd Olsen, was also gratifying to all.

The eventual doom of the famed Anaho Island-Pyramid Lake colony of white pelicans-gulls-cormorants-herons may be hastened by recent action of Secretary of the Interior in granting additional water from the sorely-bled Truckee River to the Bureau of Reclamation for new irrigation projects in Nevada. We understand that the Paiute Tribe which exercises nominal control over Pyramid Lake also holds primary ownership of this Truckee River water and is strongly protesting these new diversions. The Pyramid Lake level has been constantly dropping in recent years and much of the once-famed fishing resource has already been destroyed. The Tribal council has also been sold on a subdivision plan for one side of Pyramid Lake, which we feel may be an unfortunate development for this scenic area with a high recreation potential.

Another Nevada Refuge faces disastrous water famine due to a recent decision by a Udall aide. The Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge near Fallon, habitat of many summer-breeding waterfowl and wading birds, will be denied water this summer, according to our source of information. Vigorous action must be taken to reverse this decision.—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*.

CHAIN OF LAKES TO PRESERVE MARSH PLANTS

President Bertha Underhill received the following letter from James P. Lang, General Manager, S.F. Recreation and Park Department:

"This is in reference to your recent letter concerning the cleanup of the Chain of Lakes area in Golden Gate Park and the concern of the Audubon Society that the work might imperil the wildlife accustomed to nesting in this section of the park.

"A staff report has indicated that the cleanup in question is being done in order that the lakes may be rid of such extraneous matter as automobile tires, parts of cars, and assorted junk thrown into the water by thoughtless and careless persons. In addition, the work program calls for reclaiming and resealing the bottom and perimeter of each lake after which the walks and borders of each will be resurfaced.

"It is not the intention of this department to destroy the refuge area for wildlife, and please be assured that all of the brush and undergrowth around the lake area will not be disturbed. We plan to let the marsh plants in the south end of the lake recover and also the large sections of the tules and other grass growth where the waterfowl take refuge."

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Pt. Reyes Wildflower Trip, April 12—Although a strong wind was blowing, especially at the lighthouse, fifteen of us enjoyed a sunny day and very beautiful flowers. More than 70 species in 30 families were seen. Areas of solid color were formed by Field Chickweed (white), Wild Hollyhock (pink), Baby Blue-Eyes, and Brass Buttons. Not so compacted were Morning Glories (white) climbing over hillside bushes, Red Maids on bare ground, and many Pussy-ears (purplish) dotting a whole hilltop field. Clumps of purple Iris were conspicuous. Most delicately lovely were blue Violets and, in a swamp, *Montia sibirica* with long slender stems, jade-like leaves, and pale pink and white notched petals. Shrubs were limited to Salmon-berry, Yellow Lupine, Wild Lilac, Huckleberry, and Elderberry. As for trees, outside the Point Reyes area there were the two maples with pendant flowers: greenish on the many Big-leaf Maples, and wondrously pink on the occasional Box Elder.—MARSHALL JENCKS, *Leader*.

Sunol Camping Trip, April 15-16—About twenty persons arrived at Sunol Regional Park in pouring rain. In true birding style, we took off, complete with storm suits and umbrellas, through lovely green rolling hills covered with wildflowers and oak trees. In spite of the rain a rather impressive bird list was obtained—golden eagles, Bullock's orioles, western kingbirds, lesser goldfinches, lark sparrows, and a pair of common mergansers that flew up and down the stream several times—also a pair of wood ducks. In the afternoon we walked up Welch Creek Road and had a wonderful view of the canyon wren and warbling vireos, Hutton's vireo, western wood pewee, and Townsend's warbler. Another item of interest in the canyon was a fine example of fossils buried in a huge boulder in the creek. After battling with the elements all day nobody was much inclined to do the same all night, so we folded our tents and silently stole away to our warm houses and electric blankets—all except one—Fred Nora, who very kindly stayed and took over the leadership for Sunday, which was a summer day. Only a few additional persons showed up and the bird list was about the same as the previous day.—PAT TRIGGS, *Leader*.

Pelagic trip to Farallon Islands, April 30—Three boats carried more than 100 Golden Gate Audubon members and friends to the Farallon Islands on a relatively calm day. Highlights of the day were observations of tufted puffins in breeding plumage and two black-footed albatross. *Time, Inc.* sent a reporter and a photographer on this boat trip.—MRS. VAL DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

McCoy Ranch-Livermore Trip, April 29, 30—The Saturday and Sunday field trips netted (figuratively speaking) 59 birds by some 50 observers. The weather was perfect both days—cool and sunny with a blue sky and photogenic clouds. This must be the Year of the Phainopepla. They were on the McCoy Ranch and along the Mines Road, as well as in the pepper trees by the bridge. On Saturday, Fred Nora espied two immature golden eagles. They circled overhead long enough for us to see them very well. We also had a superb close-up view of a male western tanager, and the Lewis' woodpeckers were everywhere. One was constantly being harried by an acorn woodpecker. We also had that perennial problem of the Empidonax. In fact we had it twice. Some of us believe that we had both a western flycatcher and a Traill's. There were also numerous Bullock's orioles. On Sunday a few new species were added:—Vaux's swift, house wren and lazuli bunting.—AILEEN PIERSON (Saturday) and PAT TRIGGS (Sunday), *Leaders*.

OBSERVATIONS

March 26—Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Jacobs saw a yellow-shafted flicker in their garden in San Anselmo, where it remained two days.

April 12—A Nashville warbler was singing while foraging in our maple tree—Vi Homem, Oakland.

April 22—A pair of wood ducks at Pescadero Creek, Oakland YMCA Camp Loma Mar (half-way between Pescadero and La Honda, San Mateo County). "These ducks have been seen by camp caretaker Doil Elliott and his assistant on several occasions. I made positive identification"—Harold Stein.

April 30—Northern phalaropes were photographed in bright breeding plumage on salt ponds near KGO tower, Dumbarton Bridge—Vi Homem.

May 2—More than 100 colorful northern phalaropes were spinning on the salt ponds east of the KGO tower, Dumbarton Bridge. A flotilla of fifty white pelicans fished in shallow waters of S.F. Bay near Palo Alto marsh.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: From *Berkeley*—Florence Alpen, Mrs. John K. Ballantine, Dr. Pauline Heizer, James Kiernan, M.D., Mrs. Betty Olds, Patricia V. Rich, Robert M. Rodgers, Mr. John Smail, Mrs. Thayer W. Whitcomb; from *Livermore*—Martha and Dennis Lawrence; from *Martinez*—John A. Davis; from *New Pine, Oregon*—Wm. B. Hammond; from *Oakland*—Mrs. Frank S. Halsey, Richard J. Julin, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Schmidt, Mrs. Gordon Young; from *Piedmont*—Jan Hjorth, Mrs. David Wendell; from *Pleasant Hill*—Mrs. David Thomas; from *Richmond*—A. Marion Stockton; from *San Fran-*

cisco—Miss Eunice Elton, A. Walcott Hayne, Mr. and Mrs. A. Carlton Lind, Mrs. Winifred Maita, Rick Miller.—MRS. ZELLA CUSHMAN, *Membership Secretary*.



AUDUBON CANYON RANCH, BOLINAS LAGOON

Under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate and Marin
Audubon Societies to protect a major rookery of
Common Egrets and Great Blue Herons.

The following gifts of remembrance were made to Audubon Canyon Ranch:

In Memory of:

Mrs. Eva Chambers	Myra J. Browne, Dr. Harold A. Morse
Nicholas Politzer	Mr. and Mrs. Hal McIntyre
Mrs. Dora Hinckley	Mrs. Charles Hinckley
Dr. William J. Wedell	Mrs. W. J. Wedell
Dr. Henry Moorman	Laurel and Eric Reynolds
Harlan White	Anita L. Breck
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Dr. Thomas J. Cox	Melissa and Andrea Boussy
Mrs. Philip Arnot	Alberta M. Pruett

Gift of:

A gift of remembrance was made to the Save Kent Island Fund:

In Memory of:

John L. Miller	Addi and Gordon Courtright
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Gift of:

A gift of *appreciation* was made to Audubon Canyon Ranch in honor of Laurel and Eric Reynolds by Dorothy Dean Scott.

A gift was made to Audubon Canyon Ranch in honor of Phyllis Zweigart on her birthday by R. M., Elizabeth, and Florence Alpen and Aileen Bonestell.—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*, 854 Longridge Rd., Oakland, Calif. 94610.

A Birding Cruise to Japan — Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Audubon Wildlife Film lecturer and Florida Tour Leader, will lead an ornithological cruise to Japan aboard the American President Liner, *SS President Roosevelt*, leaving San Francisco on September 28 and returning November 4. On arrival in Yokohama, birding under the guidance of local ornithologists will include visits to Niihama Beach, Hakone and Hiei Mts. and Lake Chuzenji. Return by air can be arranged for persons whose time is limited. For complete information, write to the Haley Corp., 500 Sansome St., San Francisco 94111.



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1967

THE GULL

JUNE

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Conservation Chairman.....	Paul F. Covell	2860 Delaware St., Oakland 94602	536-4120
Canyon Ranch Film			
Distribution Chairman	Mrs. Bonnie Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco 94116	681-7635

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National \$8.50 per year, Includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2.00 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.